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# Economic and Social Council

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**Commission on the Status of Women**
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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further action and initiatives: (ii) women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building**

## Statement submitted by Federation of Cuban Women, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.6/2004/1.

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Peace should not be interpreted as a simple absence of military actions; it should be indissoluble related to the conditions of development in the countries. It is hard to achieve a total peace of a world in a profound crisis of human values, where 842 millions of people are hungers and this figure tends to be increased in five millions every year.

To assure peace to the peoples implies the right to a life with dignity, and this should be an indispensable condition and a premise for the solution of all problems, including the definitive liberalization from the exploitation and the oppression in all its forms.

According to the present conditions, a policy with double standard is observed. What is advised to the South or to the Third World countries, it is not what is applied in the North, where the big powers are. The new economical policies have tried to lead peoples to the conviction that globalize and neo-liberal capitalism is the best alternative and the only option to survive.

These policies have stressed the contemporary global problems that include the destruction of the environment; pandemic and endemic diseases; the concentration of wealth in few hands and the multiplication of the misery for many people; migrations and conflicts; addiction and trafficking of drugs; corruption and the organized crime. The present world order cannot be the alternative for the peoples, or for their development. That is why it is necessary to continue striving for peace with justice for all human beings.

As it is stated in a UN document, 1980, related to the women's decade: "Without peace and stability, the development is not possible. In the other hand, peace will not be durable without the elimination of inequalities and the discrimination at all levels. Peace is the right to the equality of participation in friendly relationships and cooperation in all spheres of life, the full respect to the dignity of peoples, and their rights to their self-determination and independence without interferences and foreign interventions and to the promotion of the guarantees and the fundamental human rights.

The Federation of Cuban Women reaffirms that peace is inseparable from the development and from the equality between women and men. At the same time, it considers that we live in a period of time where wars - even many of them under the disguise of the "humanitarian missions", "peace-keeping operations" and "alleged war against the terrorism"- threaten us everywhere, the production and trade of weapons- more sophisticated every time - continues increasing.

Many of the economic and social problems that worry the majority of human beings in the world, could be alleviated if the resources devoted to military expenses, would be used in the progress and well being of the peoples. A real and universal peace not only implies the absence of wars, but it is also necessary to struggle for eliminating the objective reasons that cause them.

It does not deal with the achievements of an equal participation and management of men and women in conflicts or in humanitarian missions, it is a matter of fighting together for the peace, sovereignty and independence, through solidarity actions as an act of a permanent defence of our families and peoples.

The Cuban people and its women talk about these values, not only with consciousness, but also from the awareness of have been victims of a terrorist policy towards our country for more than 40 years from the world biggest power, where six of every ten Cubans have been born under difficult conditions of an economic, commercial and finance blockade from the U.S. The overwhelming majority of the countries in the U.N. General Assembly has condemned this genocide blockade for 12 years.

Cuban women support determinedly the need for developing a permanent solidarity among women and men formulated through actions where women's potentialities become protagonists of the construction of a world with more equity and social justice to which women and men aspire, and we know it is possible.